

Message Text

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TAGS:EAIR, CA

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: PRECLEARANCE AT TORONTO

REF: CLAPPEN/GRIFFITHS TELECON OF APRIL 27

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSPORT CANADA AND THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MET WITH US PRECLEARANCE DELEGATION AT DEPARTMENT APRIL 26 FOR HALF-DAY TO DISCUSS CANADIAN CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR IMPROVING EXISTING US PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES IN TORONTO TERMIANL ONE. TALKS HAD BEEN AGREED TO AT OTTAWA MEETING IN DECEMBER. CANADIAN PLAN EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL. US SIDE AGREED TO STUDY IT AND RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. TENOR OF MEETING WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRIENDLY, INFORMAL. PLAN, CANADIANS HINTED STRONGLY, MAY NOT BE WORTH PROCEEDING ON TILL GOC MAKES FUNDAMENTAL DECISION ON FUTURE OF MALTON. INITIAL REACTION OF CUSTOMS, INS, AND AIRLINES HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, BUT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED INDICATE A NEED FOR MORE TIME TO EVALUATE THE PLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 26, RAY YANG AND PHILIP BOWES OF TRANSPORT CANADA, AND LEON RADCEVICIUS AND DAVE MCAREE OF THE TORONTO AIRPORT, MET WITH US OFFICIALS FROM CUSTOMS, INS, ATA, TREASURY, CAB, CONGRESS, AND STATE TO DISCUSS A CANADIAN CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR IMPROVING US PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS AT TORONTO TERMINAL ONE. MCAREE PREFACED DETAILED PRESENTATION OF PLAN BY MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

--THE PLAN IS JUST A CONCEPT THAT IS PHYSICALLY FEASIBLE, BUT WHICH HAS ADMITTED DEFICIENCIES;
--IT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED WITH THE AIRLINES;
--PLAN WILL NOT IMPROVE PROCESSING CAPACITY OF TERMINAL ONE;
--PLAN WILL NOT IMPROVE SERVICE TO US-BOUND PASSENGERS;
--BY 1982 STUDIES INDICATE THAT TORONTO AIRPORT WILL REACH SATURATION POINT;
--MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES OF TORONTO SITUATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY THIS SUMMER. SENSE OF FUTURE DIRECTION SHOULD RESULT FROM THESE STUDIES.
--TOTAL COST OF PLAN IS SOMEWHAT INDETERMINATE SINCE IT DEPENDS ON COROLLARY DECISIONS CONCERNING GATES AND NEW BRIDGING REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, 10 MILLION DOLLARS IS PROBABLY A REASONABLE MINIMUM ESTIMATE, WITH FINAL PRICE BEING PROBABLY MUCH HIGHER.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH COPY OF CANADIAN PLAN RATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN DESCRIBE ITS SPECIFICS. MAJOR POINT EMPHASIZED BY CANADIANS IS THEIR DESIRE, FOR REVENUE PURPOSES, TO HAVE DUTY FREE SHOP LOCATED AFTER INITIAL CUSTOMS CHECK, I.E. AFTER LUGGAGE IS TAKEN. CUSTOMS MAY OPPOSE THIS SINCE IN THEIR VIEW DUTY FREE SHOPS AFTER INITIAL CHECK DEFEATS WHOLE PURPOSE OF ONE-STOP PRECLEARANCE. HOWEVER, CUSTOMS DID AGREE TO CONSIDER THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL, AND IS CURRENTLY STUDYING IT.

4. US SIDE INDICATED WE WOULD STUDY PLAN, AND RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. AIRLINES SEE SOME BASIC OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE CANADIAN PLAN. IN ADDITION, AIRLINES CONCERNED ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO COMMIT 10 MILLION DOLLARS TO THIS PLAN UNTIL GOC MAKES UP ITS MIND ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TORONTO.

5. COMMENT: BASIC GOC DECISION ON TORONTO, I.E. A NEW TERMINAL III, A TOTALLY NEW AIRPORT AT PICKERING, OR WHATEVER, APPEARS TO BE SINE QUA NON FOR ANY DECISIONS ON TERMINAL I. ALL PARTIES CONCERNED APPEAR RELUCTANT TO DEVOTE TIME, AND MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO TERMINAL I PLANS UNTIL OVERARCHING DECISION ON FUTURE OF TORONTO IS

MADE.

6. ON CALGARY, RAY YANG ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED
GOC GRATITUDE FOR USG STAFFING OF CALGARY ON MARCH 15.
CHRISTOPHER

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